

JUDGE OETKEN

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

NELSON CAMPOS

Plaintiffs

-against-

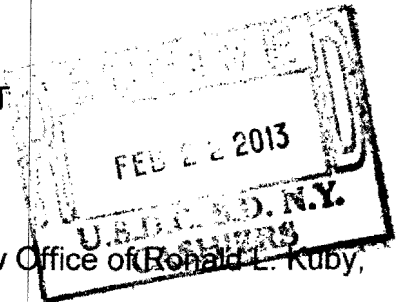
CITY OF NEW YORK;  
NYPD OFFICERS JOSE PEINAN, shield  
002276; DOE 1-4, yet to be identified.

Defendants

13 CV 1201

A jury trial is demanded

COMPLAINT



Plaintiff Nelson Campos, by his attorneys, the Law Office of Ronald L. Ruby, hereby brings this action under 42 U.S.C. §1983 to redress his constitutional and legal rights, and allege as follows:

**STATEMENT OF THE ACTION**

1. Defendant police officers arrested plaintiff without reasonable basis or justification, physically abused him, maliciously prosecuted him, and caused his incarceration for three days.

**JURISDICTION, VENUE**

2. Jurisdiction in this Court is claimed under 42 U.S.C. §1983 and principles of pendant jurisdiction. Venue is proper because defendant City of New York is administratively located within the Southern District of New York.

**PARTIES**

3. Plaintiff was at all times relevant a citizen of the state of New York and a resident of Bronx County.

4. Defendant police officers are employees and agents of defendant City of New York. At all times relevant they acted in their capacity as a New York City police officer, in furtherance of the City's interests, and in conformance with the usages

and practices of the City of New York and the New York City Police Department.

5. Defendant City of New York is a municipal corporation. It is authorized by its charter to maintain a police department, for which it retains responsibility.

#### **NOTICE**

6. A notice of claim as to the facts averred below was served on the Comptroller, City of New York, by certified mail on August 29, 2012.

#### **FACTS**

7. On June 22, 2012, plaintiff, a maintenance worker employed in the residential building located at 1231 Sheridan Avenue, Bronx, was accosted on the sidewalk near his place of employment by two young Hispanic men in street clothes.

8. They asked if he knew one "Jarida" in apartment 35.

9. He responded that she no longer lived there.

10. They asked if he knew of anyone else who could sell them drugs; heroin, cocaine, anything.

11. He replied that he knew of no one in his building who sold drugs, and that they should move away from there..

12. The young men urgently pleaded for the location of a supplier, saying they had a couple of girls waiting and needed the drugs for a good time.

13. Plaintiff angrily berated them and moved away.

14. From a distance he observed the young men shake the front door of his building open and enter.

15. He loudly called out to them, in sum and substance, "Hey, I told you there's nobody selling drugs in my building."

16. Within seconds another man in plain clothes arrested him.

17. He was taken to the 44th precinct, where several officers struck him with their radios and their hands, telling him to mind his own business next time.

18. After four hours at the precinct he was removed to Bronx central booking, charged with PL §195.05, obstruction of government administration in the second degree. The accusatory instrument alleged that he had publicly identified one of the young men as a police officer.

19. He was released on his own cognizance after three days.

20. Prosecution continued for six months, during which he consistently denied having identified anyone as an officer. All charges were dismissed on January 11, 2013.

#### **CAUSES OF ACTION**

##### **I. 42 USC §1983 violation of civil rights: False arrest**

21. There was no reasonable cause to arrest plaintiff. His response to the officers' efforts to entrap him was appropriate and entirely lawful.

##### **II. 42 USC § 1983 violation of civil rights: Excessive force**

22. There was no reason to abuse and batter plaintiff at the precinct. He was handcuffed and presented to danger to himself or anyone else.

##### **III. 42 USC §1983 violation of civil rights: Malicious Prosecution**

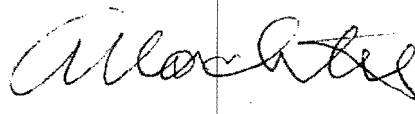
23. Defendant officers caused plaintiff's prosecution for six months

though they knew he had committed no crime.

**III. Liability of City of New York for constitutional violations**

24. The constitutional violations herein alleged are directly caused by of New York City and New York City Police Department policies, procedures, and practices.

Dated: New York, New York  
February 18, 2013

/s/   
George Wachtel [GW5921]  
Law Office of Ronald L. Kuby  
119 West 23st., Suite 900  
New York, NY 10011  
(212) 529-0223

VERIFICATION

Nelson Campos, plaintiff herein, being duly sworn, deposes and says as follows: I have read the above complaint and it is true except for those parts identified as "on information and belief," and as to those I believe them to be true.

New York, New York

Dated: 2/20/13

  
Nelson Campos

Sworn to before me this 20<sup>th</sup> day of Feb, 2013



GEORGE WACHTEL  
Notary Public, State of New York  
No. 02WA6029976  
Qualified in New York County  
Commission Expires August 30, 2009

13